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(11) EP 1 120 681 A1

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
01.08.2001 Bulletin 2001/31

(51) Int Cl.7: G03B 19/04

(21) Application number: 01300600.2

(22) Date of filing: 24.01.2001

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

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(30) Priority: 28.01.2000 US 178591 P

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(54) Photographic film package with detachable cartridge

(57) A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) with dual lens (26) includes a film-free self-activating shutter mechanism (52) and a detachable cartridge (54) for removing and installing film. A 35-mm film cartridge (74) is attached to a cartridge adapter (78), and a film-strip end (138) is inserted and pre-wound into a winding

housing (82) including a winding spool (84) therein. As photographs are taken, film is advanced home-by-frame into the film cartridge, where it may be easily removed from the adapter without rewinding of the film, and replaced by a fresh film cartridge. Thus, the adapter transforms the lens-fitted photographic film package into a reusable package.

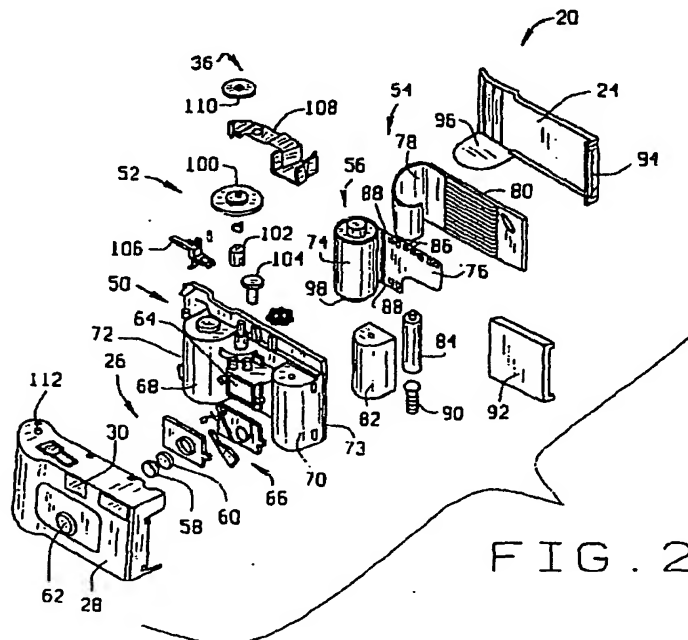


FIG. 2

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Description

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/178,591 filed January 28, 2000.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates generally to compact cameras, and more particularly, to lens-fitted photographic film packages.

[0003] Conventional compact cameras typically include a body that houses photographic lenses, shutter mechanisms, battery powered flash mechanisms, and removable film packages, typically sold separately in rolls or cassettes. When a film package has been completely used, it is removed from the body for photographic processing, and a fresh film package is inserted into the body so that more pictures may be taken. However, care must be taken when installing and removing film packages to avoid damaging exposure of the film to light, and in some types of cameras, such as 35-mm cameras, film must be carefully loaded and threaded into a film feeder mechanism. Typically, a rewind mechanism is required to reload film into the film package before it may be removed from the camera body. Consequently, 35-mm cameras are somewhat complicated, relatively expensive, and are often difficult for novices to use.

[0004] Lens-fitted photographic film packages, otherwise known as single use cameras or disposable cameras present a compact, easy to use alternative to conventional compact cameras. Consumers buy such lens fitted film packages, take a number of pictures, and return the entire package for film processing where the film is professionally removed and processed. However, lens-fitted film packages generate a large amount of waste as the packages generally may not be reused. Therefore, if a consumers desires to take more photographs after one lens-fitted photographic film package is used, they must purchase another lens-fitted photographic film package.

[0005] Accordingly, it would be desirable to provide an easily used and less wasteful lens-fitted 35-mm photographic film package capable of taking more photographs than known lens-fitted photographic film packages.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, a detachable cartridge for a lens-fitted photographic film cartridge includes a rounded bracket adapted for receiving a film element, a winding housing extending from the rounded bracket, and film element guide tracks extending between the rounded bracket and the film element.

The detachable cartridge is loaded with a film element, such as a conventional 35-mm film cartridge, and the film is pre-wound into the winding housing and advanced frame-by-frame back into the film cartridge during use of the lens-fitted photographic film package. Therefore, the film cartridge may be easily removed from the detachable cartridge for processing without requiring a rewind mechanism and without exposing the film to damaging light.

[0007] More specifically, an exemplary lens-fitted photographic film cartridge includes a body, a lens element within the body, a film element housing adjacent the lens element, the detachable film cartridge within the element housing, and a rear door attached to the body and enclosing the detachable film cartridge. The rear door is lockable with a slide out battery cover, and when the rear door is opened, the detachable film cartridge may be easily lifted from the film element housing.

[0008] As photographs are taken, a film-free self-activating shutter mechanism advances film from the detachable cartridge winding housing to the film cartridge, and a counter system displays to a user the number of photographs taken or a number of unused frames of the film cartridge. After a pre-installed film cartridge is fully used, the film cartridge is removed from the detachable cartridge and a new cartridge is inserted into the detachable cartridge. The detachable cartridge winding housing includes a spool and an attached handle for manually winding the filmstrip into the winding chamber after feeding an end of the filmstrip from the film cartridge through guide tracks to the winding housing. The detachable cartridge may then be placed within the film element housing, and, after closing the rear door and locking the rear door with the battery cover, the lens-fitted photographic film package may be reused.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009]

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of an exemplary lens-fitted photographic film package;

Figure 2 is a front exploded perspective view of the lens-fitted photographic film package shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view of the lens-fitted photographic film package shown in Figure 1 taken along line 3-3;

Figure 4 is an exploded perspective rear view of an exemplary detachable film cartridge and housing;

Figure 5 is an exploded perspective front view of the exemplary detachable film cartridge shown in Figure 4;

Figur 6 is a cross sectional view of an exemplary winding spool in an extended position for the detachable film cartridge shown in Figure 5;

Figure 7 is a view similar to Figure 6 but illustrating the winding spool in a retracted position;

Figure 8 is a cross sectional view of a portion of the film cartridge shown in Figure 4 taken along line 8-8;

Figure 9 is a schematic perspective view of an exemplary shutter mechanism shown in Figure 2;

Figure 10 is a plan view of the shutter mechanism shown in Figure 9 in an initial position;

Figure 11 is a view similar to Figure 10 illustrating the shutter mechanism in an activation position; and

Figure 12 is a plan view of an exemplary frame counter system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0010] Figure 1 is a front perspective view of an exemplary lens-fitted photographic film package 20 including a body 22, a rear door 24 attached to body 22, a dual lens element 26 extending through a front 28 of body 22, a view finder 30 extending through body front 28, a shutter-activating member 32 located on a top wall 34 of body 22, and a counter system 36 located on body top wall 34. Body 22 is fabricated from known opaque materials according to known methods and techniques to form a light resistant chamber (not shown in Figure 1) that houses a film element (not shown in Figure 1). Rear door 24 is hinged to body 22 for selective movement between an open position (not shown) and a closed position wherein rear door 24 is locked in place by a slide insert battery door (not shown in Figure 1).

[0011] Figure 2 is an exploded perspective view of lens-fitted photographic film package 20 including dual lens element 26, a film element housing 50, frame counter system 36, a film-free self-activating shutter mechanism 52, and a detachable cartridge 54 for receiving film element 56. Dual lens element 26 includes first and second lenses 58, 60 and extends through a central opening 62 of body front 28, and dual lens element 26 is substantially aligned with a central opening 64 of film element housing 50. Interposed between dual lens element 26 and film element housing 50 is a shutter 66 that is selectively positionable with film-free self activating shutter mechanism 52 to expose a frame (not shown in Figure 2) of film element 56 to light and therefore forming a photograph image of an object or scene located with viewfinder 30.

[0012] Film element housing 50 includes a substantially cylindrical film element chamber 68 and a substantially cylindrical winding chamber 70 positioned sub-

stantially adjacent opposite sides 72, 73 of film element housing 50. In an exemplary embodiment, film element 56 is a known 35-mm film cartridge 74 fabricated from opaque materials and including a roll (not shown) of filmstrip 76. Film element cartridge 74 is snap fit into a rounded cartridge bracket 78 and filmstrip 76 is advanced through flat guide tracks 80 into a winding housing 82 including a spool 84 for engaging feeder openings 86 located adjacent opposite filmstrip sides 88, and a crank handle 90 coupled thereto. Unlike conventional lens-fitted photographic film packages with curved film element guide tracks located on a rear body portion, adapter guide tracks 80 are flat by virtue of dual lens element 26 that reduces distortion and improves picture quality in comparison to known lens-fitted photographic film packages.

[0013] An opaque cover 92 is provided and dimensioned to overlap flat guide tracks 80 with snap-fit engagement to protect filmstrip 76 from exposure to light. As explained further below, opaque cover 92 allows loading of film element 56 during daylight without damaging filmstrip 76. Rear door 24 is attached to body 22 on hinges 94 that allow rear door 24 to be opened for removal and installation of detachable cartridge 54, and also includes a rounded tab 96 that supports a bottom 98 of film element cartridge 74.

[0014] Shutter mechanism 52 includes an advance wheel 100, a transmission gear 102, a sprocket gear 104, and a shutter kicker lever 106 to actuate shutter 66 as explained further below. Also, counter system 36 is positioned on a mounting bracket 108 for engagement with advance wheel 100. Counter system 36 includes a top surface 110 having indicia (not shown) to display a number of available frames, or alternatively a number of used frames, of film element 56 through an opening 112 in body top wall 34.

[0015] Figure 3 is a cross sectional view of lens-fitted photographic film package 20 including dual lens element 26 situated between film element chamber 68 and winding chamber 70 of film element housing 50. Rounded cartridge adapter bracket 78 receives film element cartridge 74 (shown in Figure 2) and filmstrip 76 (shown in Figure 2) is advanced through flat guide tracks 80 and into winding chamber 70. Winding spool 84 engages filmstrip 76 for winding filmstrip 76 around spool 84 within winding housing 82 located inside film element housing winding chamber 70. As explained further below, filmstrip 76 is manually pre-wound around spool 84 from film element cartridge 74, and advanced frame-by-frame back into film element cartridge 74 during use of lens-fitted photographic film package 20 to facilitate rapid removal of film element cartridge 74 from detachable cartridge 54 without requiring a rewind mechanism familiar to known lens-fitted photographic film packages.

[0016] Figure 4 is an exploded perspective view of detachable cartridge 54 loaded with film element cartridge 74. When rear door 24 is opened, detachable cartridge 54 is easily lifted from and returned to film element hous-

ing 50. When rounded cartridge bracket 78 and winding housing 82 are placed into film element housing film element chamber 68 and winding chamber 70, respectively, rear door 24 closes over detachable cartridge adapter 54 so that an inner surface 120 of rear door 24 is substantially adjacent and overlying an outer surface 122 of detachable cartridge 54. Rear door rounded tab 96 extends substantially perpendicularly from rear door inner surface 120 and retains film element cartridge 74 within film element chamber 68. Once rear door 24 is in a closed position, a battery cover 124 slides over a ledge 126 adjacent an edge 128 of rear door 24 to prevent rear door 24 from opening and maintaining rear door 24 in a closed position. Once battery cover 124 is removed, rear door 24 is easily opened and detachable cartridge 54 may be removed. Also, battery cover 124 protects a known battery source (not shown) for use in known battery powered systems (not shown) such as, for example, a flash bulb system.

[0017] Figure 5 is a front exploded perspective view of detachable film cartridge 54 illustrating installation of filmstrip 76. In one embodiment, a known 35-mm film cartridge 74 is snap-fit into cartridge rounded bracket 78. Opaque cover 94 is snap-fit over guide tracks 80 of cartridge rounded bracket 78 and an end 138 of filmstrip 76 is fed through guide tracks 80 into winding housing 82 for engagement with winding spool 84 therein. A knob 140 projects radially from an outer surface 142 of spool 84 and engages one of a plurality of feeder openings 86 through filmstrip 76 adjacent opposite filmstrip sides 88 as spool 84 is manually turned with crank handle 90. A pin 144 projects from a top surface 146 of spool 84 and extends into a top 148 of winding housing 82 to maintain spool 84 in position relative to winding housing 82.

[0018] Figure 6 is a cross sectional view of winding spool 84 including a substantially cylindrical body 160, and crank handle 90 including a head 162 dimensioned for sliding engagement therein for reciprocal movement of crank handle 90 relative to spool body 160. A keyway 164 on an outer circumference 168 of crank handle head 162 receives a radially inward projecting ledge 170 of spool body 160. Keyway 164 and ledge 170 couple spool body 160 and crank handle 90 together so that as crank handle 90 is rotated about a longitudinal axis 172, spool body 160 also rotates as spool body 160 is maintained in position relative to winding housing 82 (shown in Figure 5) by pin 144. Knob 140 projects from outer surface 142 of spool body 160 so as to engage filmstrip feeder openings 86 (shown in Figure 5) to wrap filmstrip 76 around spool body 160 as crank handle 90 is turned about longitudinal axis 172.

[0019] Figure 7 illustrates crank handle 90 in a retracted position wherein crank handle head 162 is positioned relative to spool body 160 so that substantially an entirety of crank handle 90 is located within spool body 160. In one embodiment, crank handle 90 is selectively moved between an extended position (shown in Figure

6) and a retracted position (shown in Figure 7) with gravity assistance by holding detachable cartridge 54 vertically so that gravitational forces either extend or retract crank handle 90 within spool body 160. In alternative embodiments, other coupling features (not shown), including but not limited to, threads or pins, are used in lieu of spool body projecting ledge 170 and crank handle keyway 164 to couple crank handle 90 to spool body 160 for rotational motion to wrap or wind filmstrip (shown in Figure 5) around spool 84.

[0020] Figure 8 is a cross sectional view of detachable cartridge 54 through winding housing 82 and illustrating a spring strip element 174 to direct filmstrip 76 to spool 84 and facilitate engagement of filmstrip 76 with spool knob 140, as well as to ensure that filmstrip 76 is tightly wound around spool 84 as spool crank handle 90 is rotated. Substantially all of filmstrip 76 is manually wound around spool body 160, and filmstrip 76 is then advanced backward frame-by-frame into film element cartridge 74 as explained below.

[0021] Figure 9 is a schematic perspective view of film-free self-activating shutter mechanism 52 including advance wheel 100, transmission gear 102, a sprocket gear 104, a sprocket wheel 190, shutter-kicking lever 106, and a spring element 192. Advance wheel 100 includes an outer surface 194 for rotational engagement by a user, and a concentric inner surface 196 for driving engagement with transmission gear 102. Inner surface 196 includes an actuating pin 198 for engagement with shutter kicking lever 106 as described further below. Transmission gear 102 is driven by advance wheel 100. Sprocket gear 104 is driven by transmission gear 102, and sprocket wheel 190 is coupled to a shaft 200 extending below transmission gear 102. Sprocket wheel 190 includes a plurality of spokes 202 projecting radially outward from an outer perimeter 204 of sprocket wheel 190. Spokes 202 engage filmstrip feeder openings 86 (shown in Figure 5) so that rotation of sprocket wheel 190 advances filmstrip 76 from winding housing 82 (shown in Figure 5) to film element cartridge 74 (shown in Figure 5). Because a gear ratio of film advance wheel 100 to sprocket gear 104 is 1.1, filmstrip 76 (shown in Figure 5) is advanced one frame for each complete revolution of advance wheel 100.

[0022] Shutter-kicking lever 106 includes first and second pillar supports 208, 210 including respective first and second elongated openings 210, 212 therethrough. First pillar support 206 includes a flat end 214, a rounded corner 216 extending between flat end 214 and a flat follower portion 218 extending substantially perpendicular to flat end 214. Follower portion 218 includes a riser segment 220, i.e., an upwardly curved segment, adjacent first opening 210. Second pillar support 208 is substantially rectangular, extends parallel to first pillar segment 206, and is connected to first pillar segment 206 with a connecting wall 222 extending substantially perpendicular to both first and second pillar supports 206, 208. An actuator projection 224 extends from connect-

ing wall 222 above first pillar support 206, and a kicker arm 226 extends below second pillar support 210 to actuate shutter 66 (shown in Figure 2) against the action of spring element 192 as advance wheel 100 is rotated.

[0023] Figures 10 and 11 are plan views of film-free self-activating shutter mechanism 52 in use. Advance wheel inner surface 196 is drivingly coupled to transmission gear 102, and transmission gear 102 is drivingly coupled to sprocket gear 104. Spring element 192 is coupled to transmission gear 102 on a first end 228, and to shutter kicking lever 106 on a second end 230. Shutter kicking lever 106 is supported on first and second pillars 232, 234 extending through pillar support first and second openings 210, 212, respectively.

[0024] As illustrated in Figure 10, as film advance wheel 100 rotates, advance wheel actuating pin 198 rotates into engagement with flat end 214 of shutter-kicking lever 106 in an initial position. As film advance wheel 100 is further rotated, film advance wheel actuating pin 198 moves shutter-kicking lever 106 to an activation position shown in Figure 11. In the activation position, further lateral movement of shutter kicker 106 is prevented by pillars 232, 234 positioned against respective ends 236, 238 of first and second pillar support openings 210, 212, and spring element 192 is in a fully extended position.

[0025] When shutter-activating member 32 (shown in Figure 1) is depressed, shutter activating member 32 contacts shutter-kicking lever actuator projection 224 and moves shutter kicker lever 106 to disengage advance wheel actuating pin 198 from shutter kicker lever flat end 214 and releases shutter kicker lever 106 from the activation position. Once shutter-kicking lever 106 is released from the activation position, spring element 192 recoils and causes shutter kicking lever 106 to pivot about pillars 232, 234 and return to the initial position illustrated in Figure 10. As shutter kicker lever 106 returns to the initial position, kicker arm 226 actuates shutter 66 (shown in Figure 2), thereby exposing a frame of filmstrip 76 to light and forming a photographic image. As film advance wheel 100 is rotated back to the initial position, sprocket wheel 190 (shown in Figure 9) advances filmstrip 76 (shown in Figure 5) by one frame. Therefore, a fresh frame of filmstrip 76 is in position and photographic film package 20 (shown in Figure 1) is ready for taking another photograph when shutter-activating member 32 is depressed.

[0026] Figure 12 is a top plan view of frame counter system 36 including a counter wheel 250 supported on a pillar 252 of a mounting bracket 108 (shown in Figure 2) located partially over film advance wheel 100. When film advance wheel 100 is rotated, advance wheel actuating pin 198 engages one of teeth 254 on an outer surface 256 of counter wheel 250. As film advance wheel 100 is rotated further, advance wheel actuating pin 198 disengages with counter wheel teeth 254 and counter wheel 250 ceases to rotate. Because film advance wheel 100 rotates one complete revolution for

each filmstrip frame, advance wheel actuating pin 198 engages one counter wheel tooth 254 per filmstrip frame. Consequently, counter wheel 250 indicates available frames remaining or used frames for lens-fitted photographic film package 20 (shown in Figure 1) with appropriately placed indicia (not shown) on top surface 110 of counter wheel 250.

[0027] The above-described lens-fitted photographic film package 20 may be used according to the following method once lens-fitted photographic film package 20 is assembled. In a particular embodiment, detachable film cartridge 54 (shown in Figures 4 and 5) is pre-loaded with a conventional 35-mm film cartridge 74 (shown in Figures 4 and 5) and filmstrip 76 (shown in Figure 5) is pre-wound into detachable winding cartridge 54 (shown in Figure 5) using spool 84 and crank handle 90 therein as filmstrip 76 is fed through guide tracks 80 into winding housing 82 until a last filmstrip frame is positioned within adapter guide tracks 80. Detachable cartridge 54 is installed into film element housing 50 and rear door 24 is closed over detachable cartridge 54. Photographic film package 20 is then ready for use.

[0028] A user takes photographs by locating a desired object or scene with viewfinder 30 (shown in Figure 1) and depressing shutter activating member 32 when shutter mechanism 52 is in the activation position (shown in Figure 11) to actuate shutter mechanism 52 to take a photograph. By rotating film advance wheel 100 until shutter mechanism 52 is returned to the initial position (shown in Figure 10), another filmstrip frame is positioned behind shutter 66 (shown in Figure 2) and another photograph may be taken. With each complete revolution of advance wheel 100, counter wheel 250 (shown in Figure 12) is incrementally rotated and corresponding indicia (not shown) is displayed to the user. The above process is repeated until all filmstrip frames have been used and substantially all of filmstrip 76 is returned to standard film cartridge 74.

[0029] By removing battery cover 124 (shown in Figure 4), rear door 24 may be opened and rotated about hinges 94 (shown in Figure 2). Detachable cartridge 54 may then be removed from film element housing 50 and film cartridge 74 removed from cartridge rounded bracket 78 (shown in Figure 2) to process the film. A new film cartridge may then be snapped into adapter rounded bracket 78, and after snapping opaque cover 92 (shown in Figure 5) over adapter guide tracks 80, film cartridge 74 (shown in Figure 5) may be rotated to feed filmstrip 76 (shown in Figure 5) through adapter guide tracks 80 and into engagement with spool 84, where filmstrip 76 may be pre-wound inside winding housing 82 (shown in Figure 5). Opaque cover 92 is then removed and detachable film cartridge 54 is reinstalled into film element housing 50. By closing rear door 24, and reinstalling battery cover 124, lens-fitted photographic film package 20 is ready for reuse. Film element 56 may be reinstalled either by customers or professional film processors.

[0030] Therefore, an easy to use lens-fitted photo-

graphic film package 20 is provided that is less wasteful than known single use cameras by its capacity to be re-used. Detachable cartridge 54 and opaque cover 92 allow risk free loading and unloading of film even in daylight hours, and dual lens element 26 compensates for light distortion to improve photograph quality. Thus, the above-described lens-fitted photographic film package 20 combines the advantages of single use cameras and conventional compact cameras.

[0031] While the invention has been described in terms of various specific embodiments, those skilled in the art will recognize that the invention can be practiced with modification within the spirit and scope of the claims.

Claims

1. A detachable cartridge (54) for a lens-fitted photographic film cartridge (20) including a film element (56), said detachable cartridge comprising:
 - a rounded bracket (78) adapted for receiving a film element;
 - a winding housing (82) extending from the rounded bracket; and
 - guide tracks (80) extending between said rounded bracket and said film element.
2. A detachable cartridge (54) in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising an opaque cover (92) overlying said guide tracks (80).
3. A detachable cartridge (54) in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising a spool (84) rotatably mounted to said winding housing (82), said spool adapted for engaging the film element (56).
4. A detachable cartridge (54) in accordance with Claim 3 wherein the spool comprises an outer surface (142), said detachable cartridge further comprising a spring element (174) adapted for engaging the film element (56) to said outer surface.
5. A detachable cartridge (54) in accordance with Claim 3 further comprising a crank handle (90) coupled to said spool (84) for rotational movement thereof.
6. A detachable cartridge (54) in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said crank handle (90) comprises a head (162), said spool comprises a body (160), said head adapted for reciprocal movement within said body between an extended position and a retracted position.
7. A detachable cartridge (54) in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said head (162) comprises a keyway (164), said body (160) comprises a ledge (170), said head received in said keyway when said crank handle is in said extended position.
8. A detachable cartridge (54) in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said guide tracks (80) are flat.
9. A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) comprising:
 - a body (22);
 - a lens element (26) within said body;
 - a film element housing (50);
 - a detachable film cartridge (54) within said film element housing;
 - a film element (56) within said detachable film cartridge; and
 - a rear door (24) attached to said body and enclosing said detachable film cartridge.
10. A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said lens element (56) comprises a first lens (58) and a second lens (60).
11. A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said film element housing (50) comprises a film element chamber (68) and a winding chamber (70).
12. A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said detachable cartridge (54) comprises a rounded bracket (78) adapted to receive said film element (56), said rounded bracket received in said film element chamber when said detachable cartridge is installed in said film element housing (50).
13. A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said detachable cartridge (54) comprises a winding housing (82), said winding housing received in said winding chamber (70) when said detachable cartridge is installed in said film element housing (50).
14. A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) in accordance with Claim 13, said detachable cartridge (54) further comprising a spool (84) rotatably mounted within said winding housing (82).
15. A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) in ac-

cordance with Claim 14 wherein said spool (84) comprises a cylindrical body (160), said detachable cartridge (54) further comprising a crank handle (90) mounted within said body for reciprocal movement between an extended position and a retracted position. 5

16. A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) in accordance with Claim 9 further comprising a shutter (66) and a shutter activating mechanism (52). 10

17. A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said film element (56) includes a film cartridge (74), said film element pre-wound from said film cartridge into said detachable film cartridge (54), said film element advanced into said film cartridge by said shutter activating mechanism (52). 15

18. A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) in accordance with Claim 15 further comprising a frame counter system (36). 20

19. A lens-fitted photographic film package (20) in accordance with Claim 9 further comprising a removable battery cover (124) attached to said film element housing (50), said battery cover preventing said rear door (24) from opening when said rear door is closed and said battery cover is attached. 25
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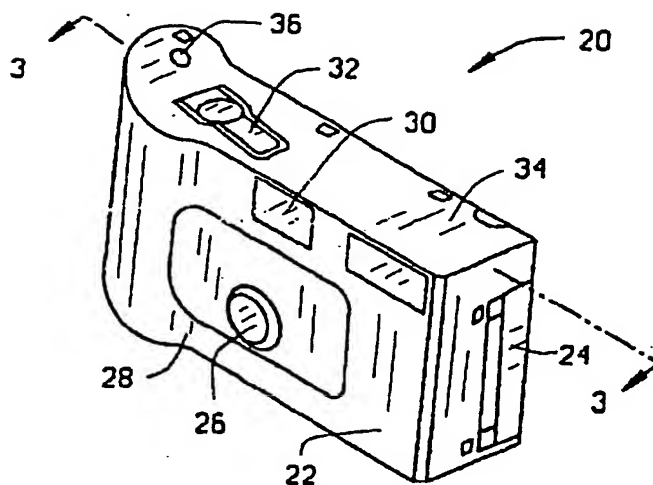


FIG. 1

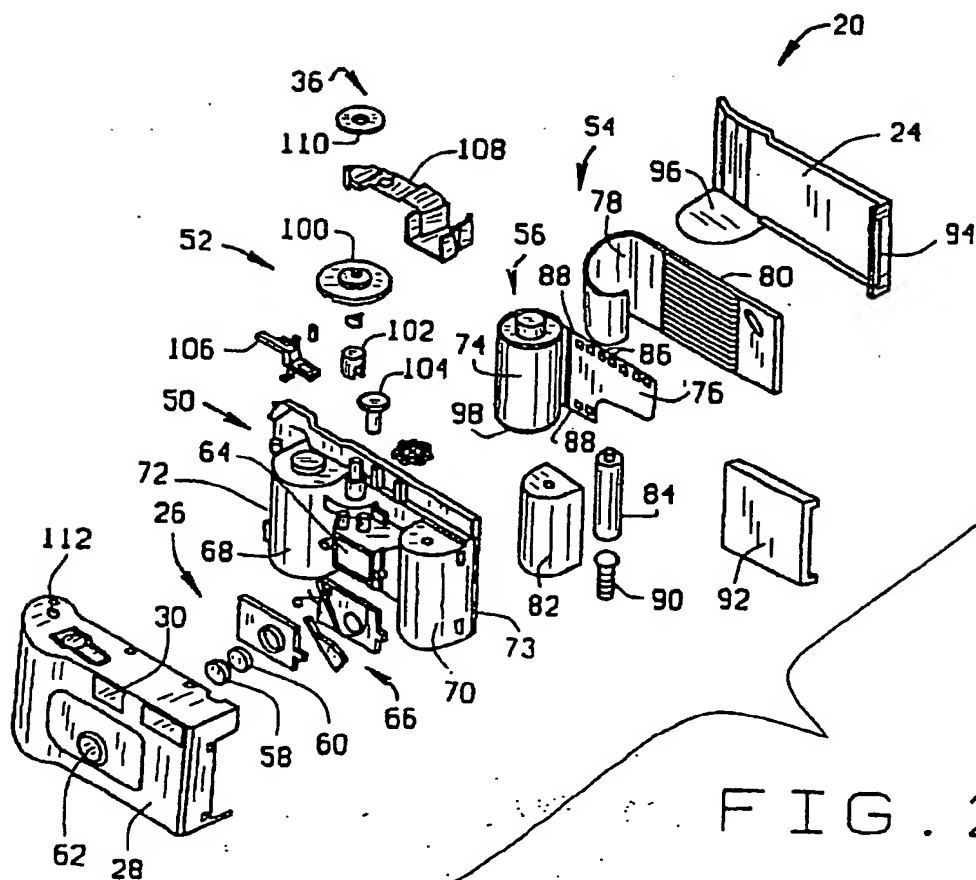


FIG. 2

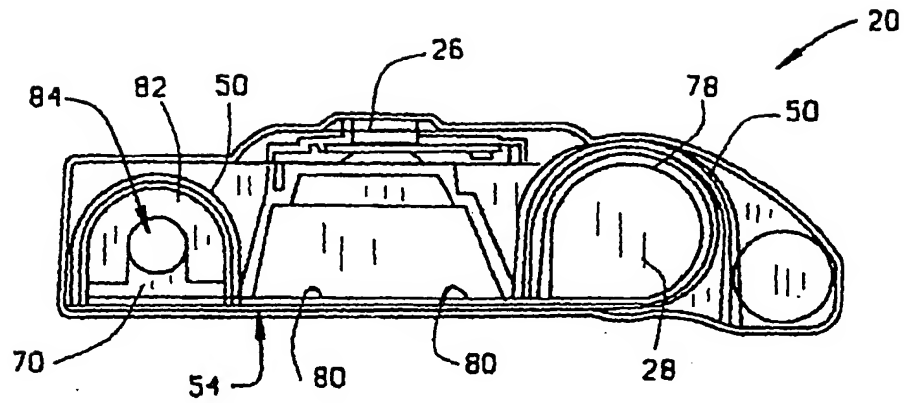


FIG. 3

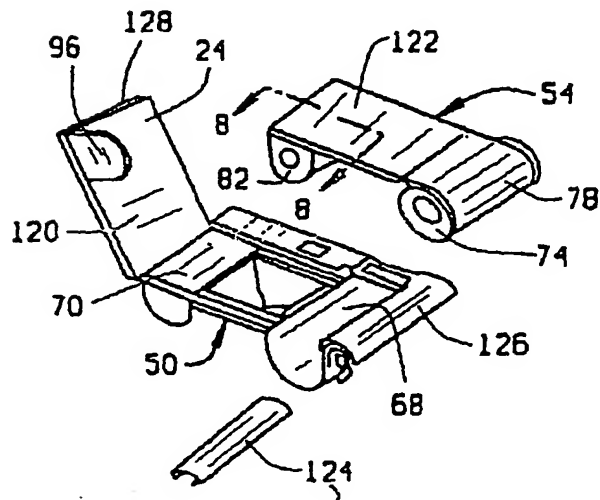


FIG. 4

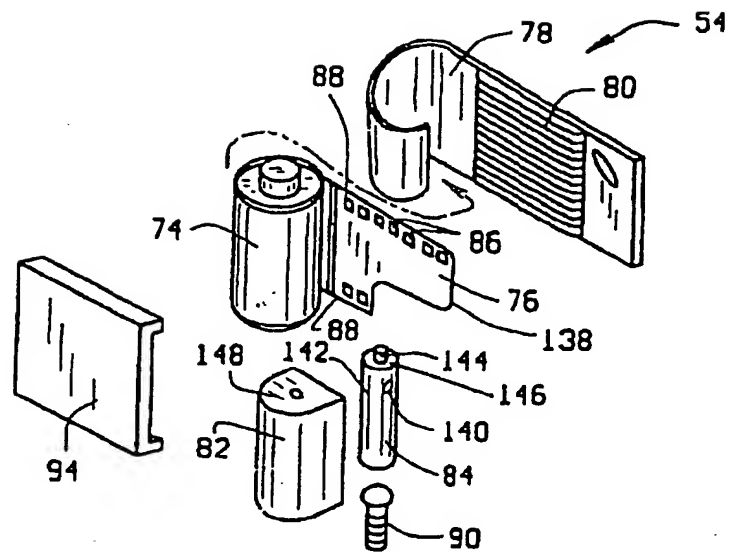


FIG. 5

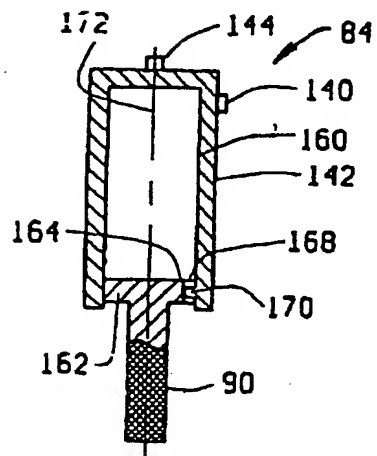


FIG. 6

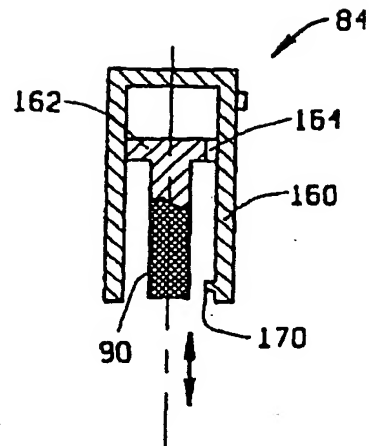


FIG. 7

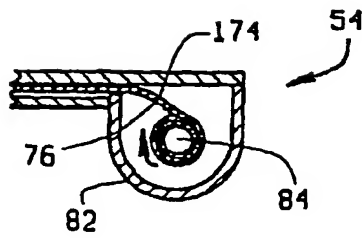


FIG. 8

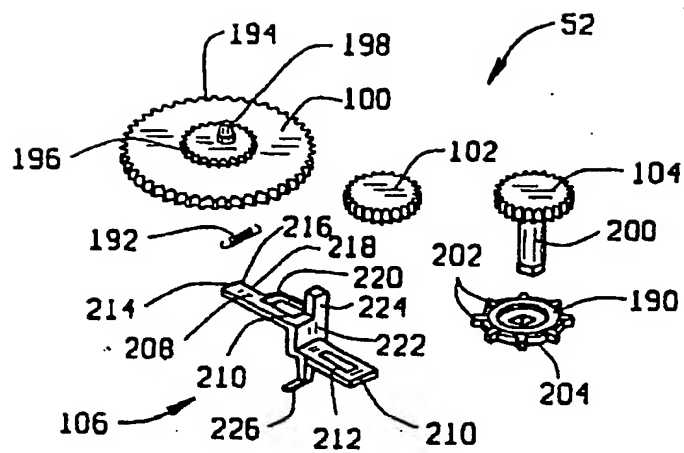


FIG. 9

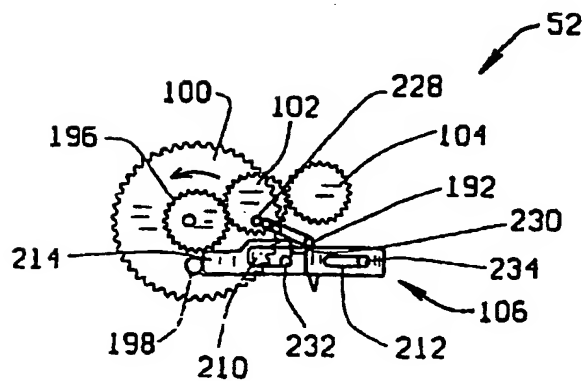


FIG. 10

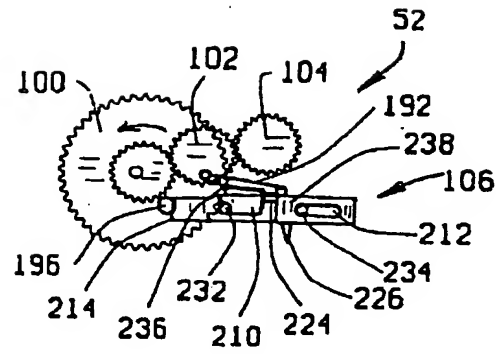


FIG. 11

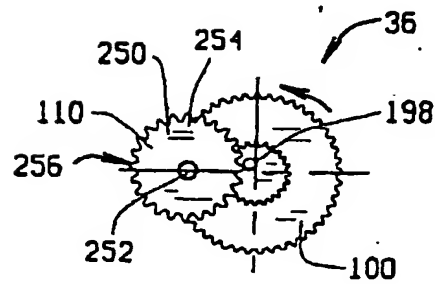


FIG. 12



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 0600

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	DE 37 45 082 C (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO LTD) 20 November 1997 (1997-11-20) * column 1 - column 5; figures 1-4 *	1-3	G03B19/04
A	US 5 649 236 A (BALLING EDWARD NORMAN) 15 July 1997 (1997-07-15) * column 4 - column 8; figures 1-14 *	1-3	
A	US 4 752 797 A (SEKINE JIRO ET AL) 21 June 1988 (1988-06-21) * column 3 - column 6; figures 1-9 *	1-3	
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 117 (P-1699), 24 February 1994 (1994-02-24) & JP 05 307234 A (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO LTD), 19 November 1993 (1993-11-19) * abstract *	1-3	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			G03B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		26 April 2001	Boeykens, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure F : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date O : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 30 0600

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

26-04-2001

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